

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (currently amended) A method for interleaving print jobs, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a non-printer computing device;

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~~breaking down~~ partitioning at least one of said original print jobs into a plurality of ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs with said non-printer computing device;

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tagging said plurality of ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs with an output mode code wherein said output mode code is the same for all ~~said smaller~~ sub-jobs originating from the same original print job; and

generating a combined print job, wherein said generating comprises interleaving said ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs and any remaining original print jobs ~~in an alternating sequence of print jobs~~ with said non-printer computing device, ~~and~~

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~~sending said alternating sequence of print jobs to a printer in said sequence.~~

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said non-printer computing device is a ~~client~~ computing device.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said non-printer computing device is a network print server.

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4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said partitioning  
~~breaking down~~ is performed by a software print system component in  
an operating system print server.
- 55 6. (canceled)
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said print  
system component is independent of an operating system print driver.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said print  
system component is a network print spooler that is independent of a  
printer.
- 60 9. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said print  
system component is a network print driver.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~breaking~~  
~~down~~ partitioning results in sub-jobs of approximately equal size.
- 65 11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~breaking~~  
~~down~~ partitioning results in sub-jobs of approximately equal printing  
time.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~alternating~~  
~~sequence-interleaving~~ places sub-jobs originating from smaller original  
print jobs toward the front of the print order.
- 70 13. (currently amended) A method for interleaving print jobs, said  
method comprising:
- receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a non-printer, print  
system component before said original print jobs arrive at a printer;

- 75                    ~~breaking down~~ partitioning at least one of said original print  
jobs into a plurality of ~~smaller~~-sub-jobs with said print system  
component;
- tagging said plurality of ~~smaller~~-sub-jobs with an output mode  
code wherein said output mode code is the same for all said ~~smaller~~  
80                    sub-jobs originating from the same original print job;
- ~~generating a combined print job, wherein said generating~~  
~~comprises~~ interleaving said ~~smaller~~-sub-jobs and any remaining  
original print jobs ~~in an alternating sequence of print jobs~~ with said  
print system component, ~~and~~
- 85                    ~~sending said alternating sequence of print jobs to a printer in~~  
~~said sequence.~~
14. (currently amended) A method for reducing printing delay of smaller  
print jobs in a print queue, said method comprising:
- receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a print system  
90                    component before said original print jobs arrive at a printer, said  
plurality of original print jobs comprising at least one larger print job  
and at least one smaller print job;
- ~~breaking down~~ partitioning said larger original print job into a  
plurality of smaller sub-jobs;
- 95                    tagging said smaller sub-jobs with an output mode code;
- forming a combined print job, wherein said forming comprises  
interleaving said sub-jobs with said smaller original print job, ~~in an~~  
~~alternating sequence; and~~

100                    ~~sending said sub-jobs and said smaller original print job to a  
printer in said sequence.~~

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising  
~~breaking down~~ partitioning said smaller original print job into smaller  
sub-jobs and wherein said interleaving comprises interleaving said  
105 ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs from said larger print job with said ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs  
from said smaller print job.

16. (currently amended) A system for interleaving print jobs before said  
print jobs arrive at a printer, said system comprising:

                         a receiver for receiving a plurality of original print jobs, before  
said original print jobs arrive at a printer;

110                    a partitioner for ~~breaking down~~ partitioning at least one of said  
original print jobs into a plurality of ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs;

                         a tagger for tagging said plurality of ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs with an  
output mode code wherein said output mode code is the same for all  
115 ~~said smaller~~ sub-jobs originating from the same original print job;

a combiner for forming a combined print job, wherein said  
combiner comprises an interleaver for interleaving said smaller sub-  
jobs and any remaining original print jobs, in an alternating sequence  
of print jobs,; and

a sender for sending said alternating sequence of combined  
120 print jobs sub-jobs to a printer.

17. (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising  
instructions for performing functions within a non-printer, print system  
component, said instructions comprising the acts of:

                         receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a print system  
125 component before said original print jobs arrive at a printer;

~~breaking down~~ partitioning at least one of said original print jobs into a plurality of ~~smaller~~-sub-jobs;

130           tagging said plurality of ~~smaller~~-sub-jobs with an output mode code wherein said output mode code is the same for all said ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs originating from the same original print job;

forming a combined print job, wherein said forming comprises interleaving said smaller sub-jobs with any remaining original print jobs, ~~in an alternating sequence of print jobs; and~~

135           ~~sending said alternating sequence of print jobs to a printer in said sequence.~~

18. (canceled)